

JANICEKNEWS

CHRISTMAS 2007



Merry Christmas from Josh, Elise & Maly

Good tidings! We hope this letter finds you and yours well and your tidings all tidied tightly.

Another year has passed and here I am at the computer, wondering what the hell I'm going to write about in this year's Janicek Christmas Newsletter. I have a hard enough time trying to remember if I ate breakfast this morning, let alone what Elise, Maly and I have done this entire year.

One thing is for certain: having an offspring makes time go by very, very quickly. Elise and I are always baffled when we look back at videos and photos from only a year ago.

So 2007 has been a great year thus far. Our lives have changed so much since we brought the Zombie Eater into the world. Rarely do we have time for ourselves. Downtime these days doesn't come around until around 9 p.m., which is after Maly has eaten, bathed, brushed her teeth and gone to bed. Then Elise and I have scurry around, cleaning up after Maly and doing our daily chores before we can have any time to relax.

Maly just turned 20-months-old this month. This past year has been chock full of Maly milestones. She started walking, feeding herself, talking, dancing, singing and laughing at her own farts. Recently she has started putting together small sentences like, "Mama's eyes", "blue lights", "Daddy go bye bye", "Riley outside" and "Maly poop!"

Her new favorite thing is Elmo. If you know nothing of Elmo, consider yourself lucky. Elmo is a red, plush Sesame Street puppet with an annoyingly high-pitched voice. We are going to be having ourselves a very Elmo Christmas this year. And although I may sound as if Elmo bothers me, he doesn't. He makes our daughter happy, which makes us happy.

So this past year allowed us to travel a little bit. Last Christmas Elise, my Mom, Maly and I spent a week in Des Moines with Elise's family. It was Maly's first Christmas and also our first Christmas without my Dad. Maly, as always, was our little

angel and helped keep our spirits bright. We had a great time in Des Moines last year and it was really nice to have the whole family together, happy and healthy.

This past June, Elise, Mom, Maly and I headed west to spend a week with my siblings in the San Diego area. We spent a couple of days with my brother, Chuck and his family. We also spent a few days with my sisters, Terri and Lisa and their families. It was also the first time Maly was able to see the ocean. If I recall correctly, her reaction was something like, "BAAAAATH!!!" After managing to get the majority of the sand inside her bathing suit, it was time to experience the ocean.

Our ocean experience was short-lived as the Pacific is really, really cold. Maly was so excited while playing in the water that it wasn't until I picked her up that I realized how cold she had become. I took her back up to the beach where the rest of the family was camped out and that's when Maly started shivering and her lips turned blue. I had one of those mild anxiety attacks that I'm prone to getting since having a daughter. Elise bundled Maly up in a towel and held her closely until she warmed up.

In August, Elise, Maly and I spent some time in Des Moines again. I stayed for a long weekend while the girls stayed for an additional week. While I was there we all hung out with family, went to the Iowa State Fair, saw Alice Cooper in concert and went to the farmer's market. I had a really nice time during my long weekend trip and I know it was good for Elise and Maly to stay for an extra week to spend time with family. It was also good for me to have some time back at the house in Austin so I could tend to the



very important and neglected task of putting in countless hours playing Guitar Hero.

So this past year has afforded us with some opportunities to travel and spend some great time with our families. Unfortunately, Elise and I both suffered losses in our families this year. On Christmas Eve of last year, my maternal Grandpa passed away. He lived a long and wonderful 96 years and I'm proud to have had him as a Grandpa. I'm also thankful we were able to spend some time with him a couple of years ago when Elise and I made a trip out to Pahrump, NV.

Elise's paternal Grandma passed away early this past October at the age of 88. Again, we were lucky to have spent some time with her at the Temaast family reunion just this past July. Grandma B. was a remarkable, hard working woman who raised nine children. Many of you reading this newsletter are far better suited to put into words the wonderful woman that she was. I am honored to have had the opportunity to know her and be among her beautiful family.

So, as always, I urge you to stop and think about what is really important this holiday season. Embrace the warmth and caring that we all-too-often overlook throughout the year. If those that you are with care as much about you as you do of them, they will most likely buy you a Nintendo Wii so you'll become distracted long enough to stop humping their leg.

Let's see, what else happened this year... Elise is still doing an amazing job as a stay-at-home mom. Maly and I are both extremely lucky to have such a wonderful woman in our lives.

Elise has also been pulling in some extra money by helping our friend, Marc, on some commercial and wedding photo shoots throughout the course of the year.

She also competed in the Austin American-Statesman's Capitol 10K and the annual Danskin Triathlon this past summer and has been doing a good job of trying to keep herself active and in shape. As if chasing and carrying Maly around all day isn't a workout enough!

Unfortunately, this past year my Tae Kwon Do classes were canceled by a unanimous decision. It was pretty hard



to let go of a hobby that I've been so passionate about since 1990, but I have since supplemented my master ninja training with rigorous Guitar Hero practice.

In an effort to maintain physical activity, Elise and I recently joined a gym. My short-term goal is to utilize the facility's daycare service by dropping off Maly so Elise and I can spend a laboring hour every evening sitting by the pool with our protein shakes and proclaiming, "I want my body to look like that this summer!" And then we'll take showers in our respective locker rooms because as you know, sitting by a heated pool will make you all sweaty.

So what's in store for the Janiceks next year? Well, I'm not really sure. If it's anything like this past year, we'll just play it by ear and enjoy watching our Maly grow and learn as Elise and I still continue to grow and learn as husband and wife.

Until then, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love Always,

Josh, Elise & Maly